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Letter dated 18 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Stockholm International Forum "Preventing Genocide: Threats and Responsibilities" was held in Stockholm from 26 to 28 January 2004. Your participation at the Forum was highly appreciated, as were your concrete proposals on the improvement of capacity for action. As you stated in your address to the Forum, there can be no more important issue, and no more binding obligation, than the prevention of genocide.

The Forum, organized and hosted by the Swedish Government, was the first major intergovernmental conference to address this topic since the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948. It brought together more than 1,000 delegates from 55 countries, international organizations, the academic world and non-governmental organizations.

I would be grateful if the present letter and the declaration of the Forum (see annex) could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 60, "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**

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Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum 2004

The Holocaust, as reaffirmed by the declaration of the Stockholm International Forum of January 2000, challenged the foundations of human civilization. Recalling our responsibility to fight the evils of genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, anti-Semitism, islamophobia and xenophobia, we, the participants of the Stockholm International Forum 2004: Preventing Genocide: Threats and Responsibilities, conscious of our obligations and responsibilities under international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law, deeply concerned with the repeated occurrence of genocide, mass murder and ethnic cleansing in recent history as well as with the widespread occurrence of impunity for such crimes, are committed to doing our utmost for the prevention of these scourges in order to build a more secure future for us all.

To this end we declare that:

1. We are committed to using and developing practical tools and mechanisms to identify as early as possible and to monitor and report genocidal threats to human life and society in order to prevent the recurrence of genocide, mass murder and ethnic cleansing.

2. We are committed to shouldering our responsibility to protect groups identified as potential victims of genocide, mass murder or ethnic cleansing, drawing upon the range of tools at our disposal to prevent such atrocities in accordance with international law and to fully upholding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

3. We are committed to ensuring that perpetrators of genocidal acts are brought to justice. We are also committed to supporting survivors of genocide to rebuild their communities and to return to normal life.

4. We are committed to supporting research into the possibilities of preventing genocide, mass murder and ethnic cleansing.

5. We are committed to educating the youth and the wider public against genocidal dangers of all kinds through formal and informal educational structures. We are also committed to disseminating knowledge of these dangers to those involved in government, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, humanitarian and peace support operations and the media.

6. We are committed to exploring, seriously and actively, the options presented at this Forum for action against genocidal threats, mass murders, deadly conflicts, ethnic cleansing as well as genocidal ideologies and incitement to genocide, including the concrete proposals presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

7. We are committed to cooperating in our search for effective measures against genocidal dangers with all members of the family of nations, in the United Nations and other relevant global and regional organizations as well as with non-governmental organizations, labour organizations, the media and with the business and academic communities.